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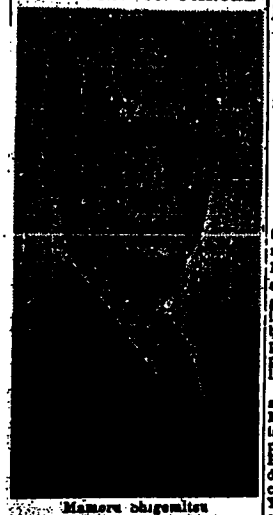

Mamoru Shigemitsu
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EX-WAR CRIMINAL TO FORE IN JAPAN

Shigemitsu, Still on Purge List, Candidate for Presidency of People's Democratic Party

Special to The New York Times.

TOKYO, Jan. 10—The first of the major Japanese war criminals sentenced by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East and now free on parole from Sugamo Prison, former Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, now is being backed for an important party office as many of Japan's pre-war figures return to public life.

Mr. Shigemitsu, who signed the surrender aboard the battleship Missouri in 1945 before his arrest, is among the list of candidates proposed for the presidency of the People's Democratic party, a middle-of-the-road group slightly less conservative than Premier Shigeru Yoshida's Liberals. The Democrats are the second largest party represented in the lower house of the Diet.

The wartime Cabinet minister, who was released in March, 1951, after serving four and one-half years of a seven-year term, will automatically come under the "purge" regulations that ban him from official activities. Political circles said today, however, his removal from the "purge" classification soon was expected and he would be able to take the party presidency if named.

The proposal that the one-legged statesman head the Democrats came to light during the reorganization of the party following its merger with the People's Cooperative Group. Recently the organization has been managed by a board that included Giso Tomabechi, Takeo Miki, former head of the cooperatives, and Hitoshi Ashida, who resigned as Premier following post-war financial scandals.

The party decided to elect a president next month and a special committee was appointed to make the selection—possibly an outsider representing none of the component groups.

Mr. Shigemitsu's name appears on the list of candidates that has been published in the Japanese press. Indicative of the resurgence of those purged in public life, the names of several other pre-war officeholders of more or less prominence are listed. Among them are former Finance Minister Keiso Shibusawa, former Agriculture Minister Tadatsu Ishiguro, Hachiro Arita, former Foreign Minister; Shozo Murata, wartime ambassador to the puppet regime in the Philippines, and Gen. Kazushige Ugaki who paradoxically was a prosecution witness before the same court that sentenced Mr. Shigemitsu.

According to the politically well informed, there is no demurrage that a man from outside the present ranks of the party will be chosen. It is no secret that some politically minded Japanese believe that not too good an impression is likely to be created abroad by the evident eagerness of many purged persons to grab for political position as soon as the law allows regardless of their former records, though many undoubtedly are of considerable administrative ability and training.

The Governmental Liberal party, however, is going through the same process as the Democrats, with former Education Minister Ichiro Hatoyama, now the "unpurged," candidate of a considerable section of the party to succeed Mr. Yoshida as Premier at the earliest opportunity—possibly by the dissolution of the diet and a new general election this year.

Finnish Broadcasts Jammed

LONDON, Jan. 10 (Reuters)—The British Broadcasting Corporation said today it's Finnish transmissions were being deliberately jammed by a source outside Finland. "It is similar in character to that used against B. B. C. Russian broadcasts and there are indications it is coming from the same source," a corporation spokesman said. The B. B. C. will make a new transmission over powerful short-wave transmitters

The New York Times, Friday, 11 January 1952

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT